



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,240	08/02/2001	Jason Wayne Wrape	00970	6011

45695 7590 06/05/2007
WITHERS & KEYS FOR BELL SOUTH
P. O. BOX 71355
MARIETTA, GA 30007-1355

EXAMINER

CHANKONG, DOHM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2152

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

06/05/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/921,240	WRAPE, JASON WAYNE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dohm Chankong	2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-16 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-16 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1> This action is in response to Applicant's amendment and remarks, filed 3.23.2007.

Claims 1-9 and 17-19 have been cancelled. Claims 10, 13 and 16 are amended. Claims 10-16 and 20 are presented for further examination.

2> Claims 13 and 16 were amended to rectify minor §112 issues. This is a non-final rejection because there are a new grounds of rejection for claims 13 and 16.

Response to Arguments

3> Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-16 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4> Claims 10-16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ditmer et al, U.S Patent No. 6,490,620 ["Ditmer"], in view of Nicoll et al, U.S Patent No. 6,356,563 ["Nicoll"], in further view of Ashton et al, U.S Patent No. 6,181,679 ["Ashton"].

Art Unit: 2152

5> As to claim 10, Ditmer discloses a method for provisioning a data link connection identifier in a network upon request from a web browser, wherein the network comprises at least one permanent virtual connection, and wherein the virtual connection has an endpoint associated with an existing identifier, the method comprising:

connecting a network management system to the first network, wherein the network management system stores the existing identifier [Fig.5, 12-13, Col.2, lines 28-67; Col.18, lines 10-44; Col.21, lines 15-44];

connecting a network management module to the network management system via a second network to obtain the identifier, wherein the network management module is capable of remotely displaying the existing identifier over an external third network [Fig.5, 12-13, Col.2, lines 28-67; Col.18, lines 10-44; Col.21, lines 15-44];

querying the network management system with the network management module over the second network [Fig.5, 12-13, Col.2, lines 28-67; column 14 «lines 33-42»];

displaying the existing identifier in a web page over the external third network using the network management module in response to the browser request, wherein the request contains at least one of a logical and physical port name, wherein further the web page comprises existing identifier information under column headings including at least "Source Switch", "Source Logical Port Name", "Source DLCI", "Source Service Type", "Destination Switch", "Destination Port", "Destination DLCI", "Destination Service Type" and a "Committed Information Rate" [column 21 «lines 28-45» : DLCI assigned to the A and B sides of the PVC, gateways (switches) assigned to the A and B sides & circuit (port) names assigned to the A and B sides | column 24 «line 55» | column 26 «lines 22-25»].

Art Unit: 2152

While Ditmer does not expressly disclose the all of the headings in one table, Ditmer does disclose that the reports are customizable by the user [abstract : “ad-hoc report customization” | column 11 «lines 14-21»]. Thus, the limitation of viewing various parameters of a port under several fields in one table is merely a matter of design choice and is not a feature that patentably distinguishes the claimed invention over the prior art.

Ditmer does not expressly disclose: (a) storing the identifier prior to the request from the web browser nor does he disclose: (b) manually provisioning by a technician a source identifier and a destination identifier for a new virtual connection between two logical ports, wherein both the source identifier and the destination identifier differ from the displayed existing identifier.

6> In regards to (a), Ashton is directed towards network management system that centrally stores virtual connection information and is accessible by various network modules over multiple networks [Figure 1 | column 2 «line 64» to column 3 «line 16» | column 4 «line 66» to column 5 «line 3»]. Ashton’s system is comparable to the network management system in Ditmer in that a user is enabled to retrieve virtual connection information, including identifiers, and provisioning these identifiers [see Ashton, column 3 «lines 10-43»].

Ashton expressly discloses a network management system containing the identifier stored prior to the module communicating for the identifier [column 3 «lines 1-9» | column 5 «lines 40-52» | column 7 «lines 24-32» where: the virtual connection information is stored as “vectors” at the network management system]. As discussed previously, Ditmer disclosed functionality of providing reports from the previous 45 days suggesting storing of the

Art Unit: 2152

identifiers. Ashton explicitly discloses such functionality and provides further motivation to modify Ditmer central management system to store the identifiers before they are requested such that it can efficiently manage the nodes within the networks [see Ashton, column 3 «lines 59-67»].

7> In regards to (b), Nicoll is directed towards assigning global DLCIs to various permanent connections that span multiple networks [abstract]. Nicoll expressly discloses displaying an existing identifier in a web page [column 11 «lines 38-41»] and discloses manually provisioning a source identifier and a destination identifier for a new permanent virtual connection between two logical ports by a service technician, wherein both the source identifier and the destination identifier differ from the displayed existing identifier [column 3 «lines 27-40» where : Nicoll expressly discloses that each DLCI for each connection must be unique and that any collisions (when more than one connection has the same DLCI) can be resolved manually (unique DLCIs assigned to the connection) to insure that each connection has different identifiers].

Thus, it is clear that the existing or assigned (see Applicant's claim 16) identifiers are displayed on the interface to allow manual reconfiguration of the DLCIs to avoid assigning the same DLCIs to different permanent connections. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Nicoll's teachings into Ditmer's remote management system. The combination improves upon Ditmer by providing global identifier assignment functionality that insures each customer has their own unique identifiers [see Nicoll, column 2 «lines 22-24»].

Art Unit: 2152

8> Regarding claims 11-12, Ditmer discloses connecting a network management module includes connecting the network management system using client-server architecture, (Fig. 2, 12-13; Col.2, lines 9-67).

9> As to claims 13 and 16, as they does not teach or further define over the limitations of claim 10, claims 13 and 16 are similarly rejected for at least the same reasons set forth for claim 10.

Claim 16 does recite assigned identifiers rather than existing identifiers. However, there does not seem to be a patentable distinction between the use of assigned rather than existing. Therefore, the Office interprets these terms as being analogous to one another.

10> Regarding claims 14-15, Ditmer discloses, means for connecting using client-server architecture and querying the network management system with a client device (Fig. 2, 12-13; Col.2, lines 9-67).

11> Regarding claim 20, Ditmer discloses, network is a frame relay network, wherein the identifier is a data link connection identifier and wherein the virtual connection is a virtual circuit (Fig. 2, 12-13; Col.2, lines 9-67).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Art Unit: 2152

Albright et al, U.S Patent No. 6.209.039;

Von Hammerstein et al, U.S Patent No. 6.278.708;

Vasamsetti et al, U.S Patent No. 6.584.074;

Langley et al, U.S Patent No. 6.700.890;

Lee et al, U.S Patent No. 6.714.972;

Crooks, U.S Patent No. 6.785.279;

Vallone et al, U.S Patent No. 7.039.015.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dohm Chankong whose telephone number is 571.272.3942.

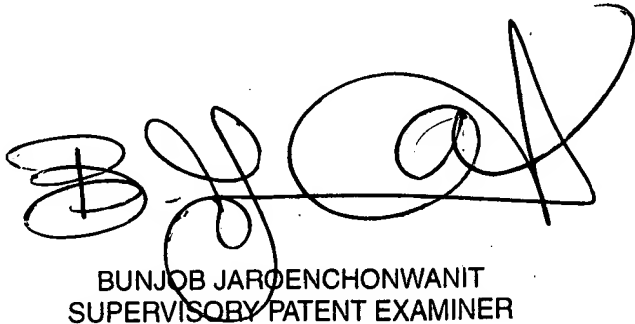
The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday [8:30 AM to 4:30 PM].

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571.272.3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2152

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DC



BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

6/4/7